

DEF. DOC. #65.

STATEMENT OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT  
DATED AUGUST 15TH, 1937. *Ref*

The Imperial Japanese Government, in its desire to secure permanent peace in East Asia, has always striven to promote friendship and cooperation between Japan and China. However, an atmosphere of hostility towards Japan has been created throughout China by anti-Japanese agitations used as an instrument by the Nanking Government to arouse public opinion and to enhance its own political power. The Chinese, over-confident of their national strength, contemptuous of our power, and also in league with the Communists, have assumed toward Japan an increasingly arrogant and insulting attitude. Herein lies the cause of all untoward events which have arisen repeatedly during recent years.

The present Incident is but the inevitable outcome of this situation. Dynamite had been ignited; the inevitable explosion merely happened to occur on the banks of the Yunting. The terrible Tungchow massacre is also traceable to the same cause. In South and Central China, Japanese lives and property have been so jeopardized that our people have been compelled to evacuate, abandoning everything they had acquired after years of incessant toil.

As has been frequently declared since the outbreak of the present Incident, the Japanese Government, exercising utmost patience and restraint, has steadfastly pursued a policy of non-aggravation of the situation, and has endeavoured to reach a settlement locally and in a peaceful manner. In the Peiping and Tientsin area, our Garrison, in the face of countless Chinese provocations and lawless actions, has done no more than was ab-

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absolutely necessary to secure lines of communications and to protect Japanese nationals there.

On the other hand, our Government advised the Nanking Government to put an immediate stop to all provocative acts and to refrain from obstructing the negotiations being conducted on the spot. The Nanking Government not only refused to follow our counsel, but proceeded toward the completion of war-like preparations against us. In flagrant violation of solemn military agreements, the Chinese moved vast armies northward, menacing our Garrison, and concentrated troops in and around Shanghai. Their provocative attitude became more clearly defined at Hankow. Finally at Shanghai, the Chinese opened fire upon our Naval Headquarters and bombed our warships from the air.

In this manner have the Chinese insulted our Government, committed acts of unpardonable atrocity against our country, and gravely endangered the lives and property of our nationals throughout China. They have finally exhausted the patience of the Japanese Government. It has thus become imperative to take drastic measures in order to chastise the lawless Chinese troops and to impress upon the Nanking Government the necessity for reconsideration of its attitude toward Japan.

That matters should have come to this pass is deeply deplored by the Japanese Government which earnestly desires the maintenance of peace in the Orient and sincerely hopes for the attainment of common prosperity and public welfare in Japan and China. The aim of the Japanese Government is none other than the realization of Sino-Japanese cooperation. Their only desire is to eradicate the anti-foreign and anti-Japanese movement rampant in China, and



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completely to eliminate the fundamental causes of unfortunate incidents such as the present one, with a view to bringing about truly harmonious collaboration among Japan, Manchukuo and China.

Needless to say, the Japanese Government harbours no territorial designs. Its sole intention is to bring to reason the Nanking Government and the Kuomintang Party, both of which have persistently incited anti-Japanese sentiments among the Chinese people. The Japanese bear no ill-will toward the innocent Chinese masses. In conclusion we hereby state that the Japanese Government will spare no efforts in safeguarding foreign rights and interests in China.

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CERTIFICATE

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, ODO, Nagaharu, Assistant Chief of the Archives Section,  
Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document in  
English entitled "STATEMENT OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT DATED  
AUGUST 15TH, 1937." is an exact and true copy of an official  
translation of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo 4 October 1946.

(signed) Nagaharu, ODO  
Signature of Official

Witness: (signed) T. SATO



Ref

## 帝國政府第二次聲明（八月十五日）

帝國政府ニ東亞永遠ノ平和ヲ冀念シ、日支兩國ノ親善提携ニ力ヲ效セル  
 コト久シキニ及ヘリ、然ルニ南京政府ハ排日抗日ヲ以テ國論昂揚ト政  
 權強化ノ具ニ供シ、自國国力ノ過信ト帝國ノ實力輕視ノ風潮ト相俟テ  
 更ニ赤化勢力ト苟合シテ反日侮日愈々甚シク、以テ帝國ニ敵對セント  
 スルノ氣運ヲ醸成セリ、近年幾度カ惹起セル不祥事件何レモ之ニ因由  
 セサルナシ、今次寧波ノ發端モ亦此ノ如キ氣勢カ其ノ爆發點ヲ偶々永  
 定河畔ニ對ヒタル通州ニ於ケル神人共ニ許ササル殘虐事件  
 ノ因由亦茲ニ發シ、美ニ中南支ニ於テハ支那側ノ排戰的行動ニ起因シ  
 帝國臣民ノ生命財產ニ危殆ニ瀕シ我居留民ハ多年營々トシテ建設セ  
 ル安住ノ地ヲ漸々占メテ遂ニ一時撤退スルノ已ムナキニ至レリ。

應ミレハ事變發生以來屢々聲明シタル如ク、帝國ハ隱忍ヲ重キ事件  
 ノ不擴大ヲ方針トシ、努メテ平和的且局地的ニ處理センコトヲ企圖  
 シ、平津地方ニ於ケル支那軍隊ノ泥戰及不法行為ニ對シテモ、我  
 カ支那駐屯軍ハ交通線ノ確保及我カ居留民保護ノ爲メ眞ニ已ムヲ待  
 サル自衛行動ニ行テタルニ過キス、而モ帝國政府ハ夙ニ南京

政府ニ對シテ挑発的言動ノ即時停止ト現地解決ヲ妨害セサル様注意  
ヲ喚起シタルニモ拘ラス南京政府ハ我カ勸告ヲ聽カサルノミナラス  
却テ益々我方ニ對シ戰備ヲ盛ヘ賊存ノ軍事協定ヲ破リテ原ミルコト  
ナク、軍ヲ北上セシメテ我カ支那駐屯軍ヲ脅威シ、又漢口、上海ソ  
ノ他ニ於テハ兵ヲ集メテ愈々挑発的態度ヲ露骨ニシ上海ニ於テハ遂  
ニ我ニ同ツテ砲火ヲ請キ帝國軍艦ニ對シテ爆撃ヲ加フルニ至レリ。  
此ノ如ク支那側カ帝國ヲ輕侮シ不仁暴虐至ラサルナク全支ニ亘ル我  
カ居留民ノ生命財產危殆ニ陥ルニ及ンテハ、帝國トシテハ最早隱忍  
ソノ限度ニ達シ、支那軍ノ暴戾ヲ磨滅シ以テ南京政府ノ反省ヲ促ス  
爲今ヤ斷乎タル措置ヲトルノ已ムナキニ至レリ。

此ノ如キハ東洋平和ヲ念順シ日支ノ共存共榮ヲ翹望スル帝國トシテ  
衷心ヨリ遺憾トスル所ナリ、然レトモ帝國ノ庶幾スル所ハ日支ノ提  
議ニ在リ、コレカタメ支那ニオケル新外抗日運動ヲ根絶シ今次事變  
ノ如キ不祥事發生ノ根因ヲ是レ除スルト共ニ日清支三國間ノ平和提議  
ノ實ヲ舉ケントスルノ外他意ナク、國ヨリ要求モ領土的意思固ヲ有ス  
ルモノニアラス、又支那國民ヲシテ抗日ニ關ラシメツツアル南京政



府及國民黨ノ覚醒ヲ促サントスルモ無事ノ一般大衆ニ對シテハ何等  
微意ヲ有スルモノニアラス且列國利益ノ尊重ニハ改善ノ努力ヲ惜マ  
サルヘキハ言ヲ俟タサル所ナリ。

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*not used*

STATEMENT OF MR. YOSUKE MATSUOKA, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS.

\* August 1, 1940.

I have always said that the mission of Japan is to proclaim and demonstrate KODO (The Imperial Way) throughout the world. Viewed from the standpoint of international relations, this amounts, I think, to enabling all nations and races to find each its proper place in the world. Accordingly the immediate aim of our foreign policy at present is to establish, in accordance with the lofty spirit of KODO, a great East Asian chain of common prosperity with the Japan-Manchoukuo-China group as one of the links. We shall thus be able to demonstrate KODO in the most effective manner, and pave the way toward the establishment of an equitable world peace. We should be resolved to surmount all obstacles, both material and spiritual, lying in our path. Furthermore, in concert with those friendly Powers which are prepared to co-operate with us, we should strive with courage and determination for the fulfilment of the ideal and the heaven-ordained mission of our country.



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CERTIFICATE

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I. HAYASHI Kaoru, Chief of the Archives Section,  
Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document attached  
hereto in Japanese <sup>1</sup>English, consisting of 1 pages, remarked  
"SHIRATORI DOCUMENT No 7" and entitled "Statement of Mr  
Yosuke MATSUOKA, Minister for Foreign Affairs, August 1, 1940"  
is an exact and true copy of the Japanese original.

Signed at Tokyo on this

10th day of Sept., 1946

(signed) K. HAYASHI  
Signature of Official

Witness: Nagaharu ODO

not used

## 基本国策と外交に関する松岡外務大臣演説（八月一日）

私は本年皇道を世界に宣布することか皇國の使命であるを主張して  
述べたてあります。か、國際關係より皇道を見ますれば、それは異なる  
に各國民、各民族をして各その道を導きしむることに導くものと信ず  
るのてあります。即ち我國精神の外交方針としてはこの皇道の大精神  
に則り、此の日本精神を其の第一とする大東亞共榮圈の確立を期するにあ  
らねばなりません。之からして力強く皇道を宣布し公正なる世界平和の樹  
立に奮起する道程に上る所以であります。而して、我國民はこの道程  
に導はるゝところの有形無形一切の障礙を排除するはもとより、更に導  
んで我に同調する友邦と提携不凋の勇躍心を以て、天より賜せられ  
たる我が民族の理想と使命の達成を期すべきものと強く信じて振はる  
きてあります。